

Message Text

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13

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SAJ-01 DRC-01 /105 W
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R 051045Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9544

INFO USMISSION BERLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 00207

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: GW, GE, WB, PGOV

SUBJECT: BERLIN VOTING RIGHTS ISSUE RISES AGAIN

1. BUNDESTAG PRESIDENT RINGER REOPENED ISSUE OF BUNDES-
TAG VOTING RIGHTS FOR WEST BERLIN DEPUTIES IN A NEW
YEAR'S DAY INTERVIEW WITH GERMAN PRESS AGENCY DDP.
FRAU RINGER, WHO DID ABOUT THE SAME THING LAST YEAR AT
THIS TIME (SEE BONN'S 17217, 1972), DECLARED THAT "IT
SHOULD OVER A PERIOD OF TIME BE ATTEMPTED, WITH THE
CONSENT OF THE ALLIES, TO GRANT BERLIN DEPUTIES UNLIMIT-
ED VOTING RIGHTS ON THOSE LAWS WHICH WILL BE TAKEN OVER
ANYHOW BY THE BERLIN HOUSE OF DEPUTIES." FRAU RINGER
COMMENTED THAT HER EARLIER REMARKS ON THIS SUBJECT HAD
BEEN "OBVIOUSLY MISUNDERSTOOD," AND THAT SHE HAD
"DEMANDED NEITHER FULL VOTING RIGHTS FOR BERLIN DEPUTIES
NOR THEIR DIRECT ELECTION." THE INTERVIEW APPEARED IN
SOME GERMAN PAPERS INCLUDING BONN'S GENERAL-ANZEIGER
JANUARY 2 AND HAS ELICITED SOME NEGATIVE COMMENT FROM
OPPOSITION SPOKESMEN WHO SAY SHE IS ONLY HURTING
BERLINERS' RIGHTS BY REACTIVATING THE QUESTION.

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2. AT THE BONN GROUP MEETING JANUARY 4 ALLIED REPS EMPHASIZED TO FRG REP (LUECKING) THAT SUCH PUBLIC STATEMENTS BY LEADING FRG POLITICAL FIGURES WERE DECIDEDLY UNHELPFUL TO WEST BERLINERS, PARTICULARLY INASMUCH AS THEY AROUSED INCREASED SOVIET FEARS CONCERNING POSSIBLE FRG PLANS FOR BERLIN (SEE STATE 3239 1973) AND MIGHT LEAD TO FURTHER GDR ATTEMPTS TO INCORPORATE EAST BERLIN. LUECKING SAID HE AGREED COMPLETELY, AND COMMENTED THAT FRG FONOFF HAD NO PLANS TO BRING UP MATTER IN BONN GROUP. HE SAID FONOFF SPOKESMAN IF ASKED WILL TELL MEDIA THAT FRAU RENGER WAS EXPRESSING A PERSONAL VIEW ONLY.

3. ALLIES AND FRG AGREED THAT THEY WOULD RESPOND TO PRESS QUESTIONS BY SIMPLY NOTING THAT THE BONN GROUP WAS NOT CONSIDERING THE MATTER. (WE HAVE HAD SOME QUERIES ALREADY AND HAVE USED THIS LINE.)
HILLENBRAND

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